

The writer was on a shooting holiday from the middle of March to the middle of May in 1910 on the Tenasserim River. Though he saw large herds of sambar, he never came across any thamin. Neither did he hear of it.

Again in 1914, the writer was on a shooting holiday in the Thayetchaung Township, Tavoy District, during the college summer vacation. No thamin were seen.

I personally doubt if the range of 'Thamin' extends beyond Martaban. This view is strengthened by the following extract from 'Notes on the Fauna, Flora and Minerals of Tenasserim, Pegu and Burma' by Rev. F. Mason, (Stephens Austin & Son, Hertford, 1882). 'Their habitat and range according to Mr. Davis are as follows: In the Martaban District they inhabit exclusively the open grassy plains between the sea and the mountains. In the Pegu plains they are perhaps more abundant than in any other part of Burma; next to them the Yengyaung plains in Martaban produce most; near Rangoon, they are found in the Dallah plain. About Pegu and Yengyaung they are found in herds from fifty to a hundred in the month of March, but when hunted they congregate much more and as many as two hundred may be seen together.'

CONCLUSION

There are now approximately 3,000-3,500 thamin in the Union of Burma. *Panolia eldi thamin* Thomas cannot now be said to be a vanishing species. But, as pointed out by the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, early appointment of game staff to protect it from further extermination is essential. It is hoped that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests will not stop at declaring thamin as a completely protected animal, but will continue to see that there is no further illicit shooting of thamin, the beautiful and typical deer of Burma.

RANGOON,
BURMA.

U TIN YIN, B.C.S. (Retd.)

[U Tun Yin has since informed us that by the subsequent Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act of 1956 the Government of the Union of Burma has declared the thamin a completely protected species along with rhinoceros, tapir argus pheasant, masked finfoot and peafowl.—EDS.]

4. THE LEAF MONKEY OF KASHMIR VALLEY¹

Pocock (1939), Fauna of British India, Mammalia, Vol. I, p. 26 was not sure of the identity of the leaf monkey found in Kashmir and he doubtfully included this locality in the distribution of two forms, namely, *Presbylis entellus achilles* (Pocock) and *P. e. ajax* (Pocock) without citing any authority.

¹ Published with the permission of the Director, Zoological Survey of India,

While with a field party of the Zoological Survey of India in June 1955, I came across a large troop of leaf monkeys on the hills just behind Nishat Garden about eight miles north-east of Srinagar. There were about fifty individuals in the troop which probably included a number of family parties. The altitude at which they were found was about 8,000 ft. That this leaf monkey frequents places of similar or higher elevations was confirmed by a number of reports from the local people also. Although no specimen could be obtained, yet it was possible to observe some individuals at a very close range and identify them to be *P. e. ajax*.

The troop was busy eating wild fruits. A few individuals hurled stones¹ when a shot was fired. It appears to be quite an inquisitive and a bold animal, some old individuals even threatening to charge.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA,
August 18, 1955.

H. KHAJURIA

5. LONGEVITY OF THE CEYLON RUDDY MONGOOSE (*HERPESTES SMITHI ZEYLANICUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

Further to my note which was published in the *Journal* in 1954 [Vol. 52, (2 & 3) page 587], I now write to record that the mongoose in question died on the September 8, 1955, aged approximately 17 years and 11 months. It ate quite well right up to the last day and died peacefully during the night, apparently of old age and/or heart failure.

TONACOMBE,
NAMUNUKULA,
CEYLON,
November 7, 1955.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS

6. TUFTED DEER IN BURMA

With reference to U Tun Yin's very interesting note on 'Tufted Deer in Burma', in Vol. 53, pp. 123-125 of this journal, mention of 'black barking deer' in Northern Burma was not, unfortunately, confined to newspaper accounts of the Vernay-Cutting expedition. Mr. Cutting himself published an account of this expedition in 'The Fire Ox and Other Year' (London, 1947) and wrote as follows (pp. 318/19):

'Now came a big moment in the history of the expedition. Returning to camp one evening, empty-handed, we saw a Lisu crouched over the dark form of a little animal. It was a deer with

¹ ? Or was it not perhaps the accidental hurtling of loose stones down the hillside, caused by the flight of the langurs on the report of the gun?—Eds.